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Letter to Carol Avery Nicholson regarding AALL membership dues, May 12, 1995

John Fox

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Chicago Association of Law Libraries

P.O. Box 1767

Chicago, Illinois 60690

(312) 915-6434



A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

May 12, 1995

SEALL

Carol Avery Nicholson

Katherine R. Everett Law Library

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Dear Carol:

I am writing to you to ask your Chapter's support in stopping the vote on the proposed dues increase at the AALL Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh.

A significant group of the Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL) membership feel that the voting on a proposed dues increase should be done by a mail ballot, so every member of AALL would be able to vote on this important issue. Currently, only those members who are able to attend the business meetings at the AALL Annual Meeting are able to cast a vote. Our Association believes that this method is not representative of the whole AALL membership.

Both the American Library Association and the Special Libraries Association vote on proposed dues increases by mail ballot. CALL thinks it is reasonable that the AALL Executive Board consider adopting a similar procedure.

I must add that CALL is not against all proposed dues increases. We are simply concerned about the procedure for voting on proposed dues increases. We believe every AALL member should have a chance to express an opinion on this issue. A mail ballot for dues increases would be the proper method for expressing those opinions.

CALL has drafted a petition for stopping the vote on the proposed dues increase at the Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. As President of CALL, I am asking other Chapter Presidents if their Chapter would consider participating in CALL's petition. A copy of our petition is attached for you to circulate. We need 5% of the total AALL membership (approximately 300 signatures) for this petition to succeed. REMEMBER, only chapter members who are also AALL members are eligible to sign this petition.

If your Chapter members wish to sign this petition, they must sign in the signature section underneath the petition. If you need more room for additional signatures, please make copies of the second page of the petition and have them sign the page(s) and staple all the pages together. I MUST HAVE THE SIGNED PETITION RETURNED TO ME BY JULY 1, 1995.

This petition will only prevent a vote on the proposed dues increase at the Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. An amendment to the Bylaws requiring a mail ballot for all future proposed dues increases must be addressed by a different petition.

If you wish to discuss this petition with me, please call me. My telephone number is (312) 443-1805. If I am not available to take your call, please leave a voice message and I will return your telephone call.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Fox".

John C. Fox
President

RE: PETITION TO STOP THE VOTE ON THE PROPOSED DUES INCREASE
AT THE AALL ANNUAL MEETING IN PITTSBURGH UNTIL IT CAN
BE SUBMITTED TO THE AALL MEMBERSHIP BY MAIL BALLOT

We, as members of AALL, the Chicago Association of Law Libraries and other Chapters of AALL present this petition to the Executive Board of AALL to stop the vote on the proposed dues increase at the AALL Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh until it can be submitted to the entire membership by mail ballot.

We believe that a vote on a dues increase at the business meetings in Pittsburgh does not provide all AALL members with the opportunity to express their opinion on the proposal, because attendance at the Annual Meeting is usually less than half of the total membership of AALL.

We are not necessarily against a dues increase, but we do believe that a better method for deciding that issue would be to vote on the proposed dues increase by a mail ballot. By using that method, everyone would be given an opportunity to vote on the issue. Both the American Library Association and the Special Library Association vote on proposed dues increases by a mail ballot. It seems reasonable that AALL consider adopting a similar procedure.

We request that the vote on the proposed dues increase be postponed until it can be submitted to the entire membership by mail ballot.

SIGNATURE SECTION

TO: Carol Billings - President
Judith Meadows - Treasurer
All AALL Executive Board Members

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